

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN MARCH 2004

U.S. mine production of iron ore in March 2004, on a daily average basis, was 9% lower than that of the prior month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily production was 133,000 metric tons per day (t/d), compared with 146,000 t/d in February 2004. Production for the first quarter of 2004 was slightly below that of first quarter 2003.

Shipments on a daily basis increased by 114% compared with those of February 2004. Mine stocks at the end of March 2004

were 21% higher than the revised stock figures at the end of February 2004.

Note

All data in this report have been rounded to no more than three significant digits. Totals and percentages were calculated using unrounded data.

TABLE 1
U.S. PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE^{1,2}
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more of manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production		Shipments	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
2003:				
March	4,080	12,700	1,810	5,830
April	4,230	16,900	4,790	10,600
May	4,010	20,900	5,340	16,000
June	3,740	24,700	4,840	20,800
July	3,920	28,600	4,450	25,200
August	3,950	32,500	4,330	29,600
September	3,870	36,400	4,220	33,800
October	4,190	40,600	4,370	38,200
November	4,140	44,700	4,540	42,700
December	3,740	48,500	5,170	47,900
2004:				
January	4,270 ^r	4,270	3,920 ^r	3,920
February	4,230	8,500	1,190	5,100
March	4,130	12,600	2,710	7,810

^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Excludes byproduct ores.

TABLE 2
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE IN MARCH^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

State	Production		Shipments ³		Stocks ⁴	
	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003
Michigan	768	1,010	736	457	2,060	2,570
Minnesota	3,360	3,070	1,970	1,350	6,720	7,500
Total	4,130	4,080	2,710	1,810	8,780	10,100

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Excludes byproduct ore.

³Includes rail and vessel.

⁴Includes mines, plants, and loading docks.

TABLE 3
CANADA: SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE¹

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland	Quebec	British Columbia	Total
2003:				
February	674	580	6	1,260
March	989	578	7	1,570
April	1,800	1,120	5	2,930
May	1,960	1,540	4	3,510
June	2,090	1,260	5	3,360
July	2,140	1,460	8	3,610
August	1,530	1,100	6	2,630
September	1,710	1,240	7	2,950
October	2,080	1,500	6	3,580
November	2,260	1,190	5	3,450
December	1,740	1,060	6	2,800
Year total	19,800	13,300	69	33,200
2004:				
January	1,370	839	5 ^r	2,210
February	1,230	589	7	1,820

^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Natural Resources Canada.

TABLE 4
CONSUMPTION AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE AND BLAST FURNACE PRODUCTION
OF HOT METAL AT U.S. IRON AND STEEL PLANTS^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Consumption by source	Consumption of ores and agglomerates			
	January		January	
	2004	2003	2004	2003
United States ores	NA	3,780	NA	3,780
Canadian ores	NA	428	NA	428
Foreign ores	NA	707	NA	707
Total	4,720 ^e	4,920	4,720 ^e	4,920
Consumption by process				
Blast furnaces	NA	4,370	NA	4,370
Steel furnaces	NA	39	NA	39
Agglomerating plants ³	NA	510	NA	510
Miscellaneous ⁴	NA	--	NA	--
Total	4,720 ^e	4,920	4,720 ^e	4,920
Stocks of ores and agglomerates,				
January 31				
Storage point	2004	2003		
Furnace yards	NA	11,100		
Receiving/transfer docks	NA	1,430		
Total consumer	NA	12,600		
Blast furnace production of hot metal				
January				
	2004	2003	2004	2003
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	3,340	3,480	3,340	3,480
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	NA	29	XX	XX

^eEstimated. NA Not available. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes agglomerates.

³Iron ore and iron ore concentrates consumed in agglomerating plants not located at the mine or plant site.

⁴Sold to nonreporting companies or used for purposes not listed.

Sources: American Iron Ore Association (consumption of iron ore 2003) and American Iron and Steel Institute (production of hot metal and pig iron).

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON ORE, BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION AND TYPE^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination and type of product	2003			2004	
	3rd quarter	4th quarter	December	January	February
Canada	2,130	1,700	600	605	141
Mexico	7	1	(3)	(3)	(3)
Other	30	76	49	30	18
Total	2,170	1,780	649	636	159
Pellets	2,110	1,780	648	635	158
Other	53	6	(3)	1	1
Total	2,170	1,780	649	636	159

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes agglomerates.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE, BY COUNTRY AND TYPE^{1,2}
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Country of origin and type of product	2004					2003
	February		Year to date			January-February
	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Value ³ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Australia	(4)	24	(4)	24	54.15	61
Brazil	320	8,940	741	18,800	25.40	954
Canada	185	5,190	505	16,700	33.15	338
Chile	59	1,560	59	1,560	26.46	--
Finland	4	190	4	190	47.50	3
Mexico	--	--	26	548	21.07	--
Peru	15	266	15	266	17.73	(4)
South Africa	(4)	11	(4)	11	226.70 ⁵	--
Spain	--	--	(4)	3	39.91	--
Total	583	16,200	1,350	38,200	28.25	1,360
Concentrates	94	2,230	94	2,230	23.73	--
Coarse ores	(4)	11	(4)	11	226.70 ⁵	--
Fine ores	86	1,680	327	5,990	18.31	208
Pellets	399	12,100	926	29,700	32.11	979
Other agglomerates	--	--	(4)	3	39.91	166
Roasted pyrites	4	193	4	193	48.25	3
Total	583	16,200	1,350	38,200	28.25	1,360

-- Zero.

¹Data, with the exception of the dollars per ton column, are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes agglomerates.

³Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.

⁴Less than 1/2 unit.

⁵This represents an atypical shipment, perhaps, for a specialized iron ore product.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE IN FEBRUARY 2004^{1,2}
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of origin	Type of product						Total
	Concentrates	Coarse ores	Fine ores	Pellets	Briquettes and other agglomerates	Roasted pyrites	
Brazil	--	--	71	249	--	--	320
Canada	34	--	--	150	--	--	185
Other	59	(3)	15	--	--	4	78
Total	93	(3)	86	399	--	4	583

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes agglomerates.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY COUNTRY¹

Country of origin	2004					2003
	February		Year to date			January-February
	Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Value ² (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Brazil	249	7,530	456	13,700	29.94	735
Canada	150	4,540	470	16,100	34.22	244
Total	399	12,100	926	29,700	32.11	979

¹Data, with the exception of the dollars per ton column, are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 9
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE,
BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT^{1,2}
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district (code no.)	February	January-February	
	2004	2004	2003
Baltimore, MD (13)	184	572	568
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	1	1
Charleston, SC (16)	--	--	23
Chicago, IL (39)	(3)	(3)	26
Great Falls, MT (33)	(3)	(3)	--
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	28	28	37
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	--	(3)
Mobile, AL (19)	--	--	59
New Orleans, LA (20)	367	746	639
Nogales, AZ (26)	(3)	(3)	--
Philadelphia, PA (11)	4	4	3
Total	583	1,350	1,360

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes agglomerates.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 10
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS,
BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district (code no.)	February	January-February	
	2004	2004	2003
Baltimore, MD (13)	78	253	221
Charleston, SC (16)	--	--	23
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	28	28	37
Mobile, AL (19)	--	--	59
New Orleans, LA (20)	293	645	639
Total	399	926	979 ^r

^rRevised. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.